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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/674,445	11/01/2000	Jesus Prieto Valtuena	U013039-2	8974

140 7590 01/28/2003

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EXAMINER
SEHARASEYON, JEGATHEESAN

ART UNIT 1647
PAPER NUMBER
DATE MAILED: 01/28/2003

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Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	09/674,445	PRIETO VALTUENA ET AL.	
	Examiner Jegatheesan Seharaseyong	Art Unit 1647	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 1 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on 04 November 2002.

2a) This action is **FINAL**. 2b) This action is non-final.

3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

4) Claim(s) 11-27 is/are pending in the application.

4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.

5) Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.

6) Claim(s) _____ is/are rejected.

7) Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.

8) Claim(s) 11-27 are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.

10) The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.

Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).

11) The proposed drawing correction filed on _____ is: a) approved b) disapproved by the Examiner.

If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.

12) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

13) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).

a) All b) Some * c) None of:

- Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
- Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
- Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

14) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).

a) The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.

15) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

Attachment(s)

1) Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) 4) Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). _____.

2) Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) 5) Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)

3) Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) _____ 6) Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

1. The previous restriction requirement (Paper No.10) is withdrawn in favor of the instant new restriction requirement. Although the inventions or groups remains the same the Office has further required the Applicant to elect between the protein administration and nucleotide sequence administration for the method of treating.
2. This application is filed under 35 U.S.C. 371 however, the previous restriction was done under US restriction practice (Paper No.8). Therefore, the previous restriction is withdrawn in favor of the new restriction.
3. Restriction is required under 35 U.S.C. 121 and 372.

This application contains the following inventions or groups of inventions which are not so linked as to form a single general inventive concept under PCT Rule 13.1.

In accordance with 37 CFR 1.499, applicant is required, in response to this action, to elect a single invention to which the claims must be restricted.

Group I, claims 11, in part, 15-20 and 21, in part, are drawn to a method for treating a patient having a liver disease by administering IFN-alpha 5.

Group II, claims 11, in part, 12, 21and 24, in part, are drawn to a method for treating a patient having a chronic hepatitis C by administering IFN-alpha 5.

Group III, claims 11, in part, 13, 21 and 25, in part, are drawn to a method for treating a patient having cirrhosis of viral origin by administering IFN-alpha 5.

Group IV, claims 11, in part, 14, 21, 26 and 27, in part, are drawn to a method for treating a patient having hepatocellular carcinoma by administering IFN-alpha 5.

Group V, claim 22 and 23, drawn to a method of screening liver cells of a patient for reduced IFN alpha 5.

The methods of Inventions I-V are different from each other as they are directed to nonequivalent types of methods. Specifically, Inventions I-IV are directed to treatment of different diseases. Invention V is directed to a screening method.

The claims of these groups are directed to different inventions, which are not linked to form a single general concept. The claims in the different groups do not have in common the same or corresponding special technical features because it lacks novelty (see international search report for Foster et al. and Davis et al.). In particular, each group is directed to different compounds and/or methods. Accordingly, the claims are not so linked by a special technical feature within the meaning of PCT Rule 13.2 so as to form a single inventive concept and lack of unity is deemed proper.

4. Regardless of the Group elected, Applicant is additionally required to elect a single method of treatment between administering IFN-alpha 5 polypeptide or IFN-alpha 5 nucleic acid sequence. The nucleic acid and polypeptide sequences are independent and distinct because no common structural or functional properties are shared.

Accordingly, these sequences are each subject to restriction under 35 U.S.C. § 121.

5. Applicant is advised that the reply to this requirement to be complete must include an election of the invention to be examined even though the requirement be traversed (37 CFR 1.143).

6. Applicant is reminded that upon the cancellation of claims to a non-elected invention, the inventorship must be amended in compliance with 37 CFR 1.48(b) if one or more of

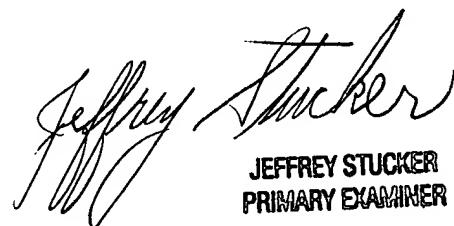
the currently named inventors is no longer an inventor of at least one claim remaining in the application. Any amendment of inventorship must be accompanied by a petition under 37 CFR 1.48(b) and by the fee required under 37 CFR 1.17(i).

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Jegatheesan Seharaseyon whose telephone number is 703-305-1112. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F: 8:30-4:30.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Gary Kunz can be reached on 703-308-4623. The fax phone numbers for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned are 703-308-0294 for regular communications and 703-308-4227 for After Final communications.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is 703-308-0196.

JS
January 27, 2003



JEFFREY STUCKER
PRIMARY EXAMINER